

# EPISTLE

Charles the second

King of ENGLAND,

And to every individual Member of his

COUNCIL

Presented to them in pure love and good will, that they might consider of the things herein contained before the King was Crowned, or had taken his Oath; forasmuch as a mace lay from the Lord was laid upon the Fore-man of the said Council, later to, Who is known to divers people by the name of *Christophers*. From the Town of Reading in Berkshire the 15<sup>th</sup> of the 2<sup>d</sup> month, 1661.

**G**ive ear, O King, and hearken to Council, let thy heart be inclined to understanding, and diligently consider the things that concern thy everlasting Peace, and the well-being of all people under thy Government. And Oh you Counsellors of the King, know you this, that the God of Israel, who governs in the Heavens, & in the earth, hath appeared in these Nations, in the absence of the King, and since his Fathers dayes, to bring to passe his great work, in performance of his promises, and returning the captivity of his people, who have been many Ages past most cruelly afflicted and oppressed under *Ethiops* hard Task-masters, who have exercised authority over their Consciences. But now the Lord God is come to deliver his Israel in the Spirit, by the hand of the Great Prophet that *Moses* prophesied of, saying, The Lord your God shall raise up a PROPHET like unto me, one from among your brethren, him shall you hear in all things: And whosoever shall will, let his ear from hearing that Prophet, shall be cut off from among the people. This is the Prophet, O King and Council, that is worthy to rule, and by the Hand of this Prophet, will the Lord bring to pass the purpose of his heart, and will set up Justice and Righteousness, in the Earth: and who ever they be else will not be

And thus hearken to this Word (whether King, Councils, Par-  
liament, Army, Synod, or other) shall assuredly be destroyed and  
cut off from among the people. For this great Power of whom  
Men speak, is the only Power of God, the Christ, the Saviour,  
the Light of the World, who hath given us that Comfort unto the  
World. This is he, O King and Council, that the Lord God hath  
raised up in these Nations since thy Father's Days, and in thy  
absence, and he alone is worthy to Rege (not Synods, nor Hire-  
ling Ministers) and thousands there be within thy Dominions,  
O King, that have received this great Power and true Light,  
and a good understanding thereby (Glory, glory to the Lord  
God for evermore) and now are making War with the Na-  
tions in Righteousness, and in particular with thee, O King,  
and with thy Councils, not with Sword, nor Sins, nor phar-  
isings, nor Combinations, to hurt thee, O King, or any of thy  
family or people, nor any ways seeking to remove thee from thy  
Crown and Dignity, but with the Spirit of God striving to  
establish thy Throne in Righteousness, and to Crown thee with ever-  
lasting Honour and Dignity. And know this, O King and Council,  
that the People and Angels of the Lord do not strive against flesh  
and blood, neither are their weapons carnal, but Spiritual, and  
mighty through God to make war with the men of sin in all its  
appearances and forms of Government, whether Presbytery, or  
Episcopacy, or any other Antichristian Form, which must all be  
thrown down in this day of the Lords mighty power, where-  
in he hath made bare his Arm, and will yet more and more make bare  
his Arm, and his Arm and Authority shall be known against  
the Hierarchy of Antichrist, in the utter destruction thereof, the  
Lord will overthrow all the Powers and authorities of the earth  
that stand in his way, or any way seek to uphold the King-  
dom and Authority of the Beast, and of the false Prophet  
which is full of darkness. And the Lord God will bring in  
his Kingdom of Righteousness, which he hath begun to set up, and  
the same will finish, though it be to the everlasting destruction  
of all earthly Powers and people that stand in opposition  
thereto.

Therefore, O King, take heed what thou dost in this thy  
day, and power, and O Council of the King, take heed lest  
you counsel the King either to preach, or to go about to establish,  
or set up the Kingdom of Antichrist, under any form whatsoever,  
whether

whether by day or by night, as we shall see by the way. ly if you do, it will be the same judgment both of you, and your King. And again I say, O King and Counsaile, for your Country, and the many of mine Nation, many alive in this day, and will receive something of you both within and without to make. For I know that the work of the Lord is to whom I pray, if you will, the Lord will dash you to pieces, and so you will become a miserable as those that are gone before you.

And O King, in the day and deed of the Lord, praise thy King, and the Lord mercies towards thee and thy family, for they have been very great in this day of thy affliction, wherein the Lord hath not been wanting to thee, but hath sent his servants time after time to Counsel thee, and to govern thee, of the Lord Judgements that are hastening upon these Nations for the wickedness thereof.

And the Lord God hath been striving with thee, not only by his spirit in his Ministers and Sermons, but his witness in thine own Conscience also, since he hath set thee upon thy Father's Throne.

And my self one of the least in whom the Lord hath showed mercy in bringing me into this good Land, wherein every one that is faithfully receiveth of the fruits and increase thereof and drink of the pleasant streams that therein run, which more refresh than all the increase of earthly creature; do now in obedience to the motions of Gods Spirit, and in his fear and dread, give in my testimony before the O King, and before thy Counsel for the Lord God, though King of kings, yet obeyed by the people, out of his fear and reverence of these Nations, and for his truth that is fallen in the Gates, and for his people though harmless and just, yet more oppressed than any other people in the Nations by reason of the wicked Ministry which teach the people to sin, and are enemies to Gods truth and people.

Know this now, therefore, O King, that if thou wilt not regard the Lord Gods striving with thee, by his Sermons, nor hearken to nor receive the reproofs of Gods witnesses in thy own conscience, then the Lord will withhold his servants from thee, and his spirit from striving with thee, and give thee up to the hands of heathen, and thou shalt be ruled by them, thereby

men, enemies to God, with all his people) who will cause thee  
 to do such things which may be was once far from thy heart  
 to do; & then the Lord God, who respecteth no mans person, will  
 visit thee and thine with a very terrible overthrow, and utter  
 ruin and destruction; as he hath done to those that have gone  
 before thee, who would not hearken to Gods servants nor Re-  
 vrain at his reproval. For I say unto thee O King, God  
 did not remove those men from the throne of Government in  
 these Nations, for their well doing but for their evil; for their  
 unrighteous and unjust whom; because they Governed not  
 for God; and therefore in the Kingdoms of the Earth are the  
 Lords, To be disposed of them as he pleases. He plucks down  
 the Governours thereof, whose actions proclaim them Trai-  
 tors to their Lord and Master who intrusted them; and set up  
 others to cry after him; whether they will obey and do his  
 commands and the things that he delights in: To wit, Mercy  
 and Justice, true Judgment and Righteousness; and the contri-  
 ary he denys with the workers thereof, from the highest to the  
 lowest. And so when that wicked and perfidious Generation  
 of men, would by no means be reformed, then the wrath of  
 the Lord was kindled, and his decree went forth against them;  
 And so they were dashed in pieces even like a Potters Vessel;  
 & was their wickedness caused them to fall; & nothing else; for  
 they still obstructed the Lords work; and yet he bore with  
 them a long time; and would not that any should break them  
 to pieces; but disappointed all plottings and combinations against  
 them from time to time; and also counselled them by his Mini-  
 sters & Servants, which he sent unto them; and did warn them  
 of the evil that fell upon them long before it came; and Re-  
 proved them of their evil deeds; and divers times suffered their  
 own servants to take their power from them; and then they  
 lay under shame and Contempt for some time; and then Re-  
 stored to Government again; but still they went on in their  
 evil Practices, being Covetous self-seeking men, having a form of  
 Godliness, but denied the power thereof; they were Great  
 Oppressors and Hard Hearted men; And Imprisoned the Mini-  
 sters and Servants of the Lord; And maintained an Idle,  
 Drunken, Idolatrous, Hired, Tyb-taking Ministry in the Na-  
 tions; And suffered them to persecute, Oppresse and Afflict  
 the most precious Ministers and Servants of God, whose E-  
 states

that they were easy and willing to be used in any manner of them most cruelly abused in prison, even unto death (Mark) therefore O King, had the Lord been pleased with such things, then doubtlesse thou and thy party had never returned to Gogren in these Nations any more; if the Lord had seen good that Oppression and Grinding the faces of the poor, and maintaining a Hiredling Ministry, and forcing the people of God to pay Tithes, and persecuting, and Imprisoning of Gods Ministers and Servants should have continued in these Nations, then those men (which he removed to bring thee in) might have been his Instruments for such a work, and no need for Thee to have been brought in, in so eminent a manner, to do the work with which the Spirit of the Lord was burdened and grieved from day to day, and for which his wrath brake forth against those men, whose names now rot in perpetual infamy.

Therefore, doth it not concern Thee, O King, and thy Council to consider what you are doing? For the Lord is the same now as ever he was, and regards not Kings, Councils, Parliaments, Armies, Protectors, (so called) or any one, more than another; otherwaies then they are found in the path of Righteousnesse, Mercy, and true Judgement.

Therefore, Awake, Awake, O KING, with Thy COUNCEL, stand up, and see whereon the Basis of Thy Kingdom stands, least Thy Crown and Dignity fall in the dust in these great Overturnings; for verily, verily there is yet a greater Overturning then has been, that will suddenly come upon these Nations: In which Overturning, O King, Thou, and Thy party, if you proceed as you have begun, must be the very subject matter of the day, and must drink the very bottom and dregs of that Cup, which all persons that have miscarried in Government for divers years past have tasted of; for the Lord has tryed you many years by sore and grievous affliction, and now hath restored you, that all People and Nations may see what you will do: And Thou, O King, and thy party, hath begun to set up and maintain that false Ministry and worship, and Idolatrous practice and vain sports (for which the wrath of God brake forth about twenty years since against thy family) that is to say EPISCOPACY, with all the Abominations both in Worship and Practice, which it brings along



(22)  
Along with it, notwithstanding the light that shined in this  
day of the Lords mighty power, and this glorious day of vi-  
sitation, wherein the Lord hath admitted you to stand for try-  
al: And know this, O King! Thy Father and his party  
deceased never saw such a day, nor received so much mercy  
(as Thce and thy party that now survives have done) but  
were in the dark and cloudy day, folded up under the *flow-  
ling Ministers*; and had not the Ministers of Christ, the light  
of the world lent unto them, with message after message, as to  
Thee and Thy party hath been done, counselling Thee, O  
King, and thy Council to fear God, and to work righteous-  
ness; and the Ministers and servants of the Lord have been  
faithful unto Thee, O King, in every thing, and in this thing  
in particular, that is, Thou like not the Spirit of God in  
forcing all to worship God after the manner of the Nations  
and Heathen, nor to maintain a *bieling Ministry*; for where  
there is such a thing done by authority, there must of neces-  
sity follow great ignorance; and grosse darknesse wil soon cover  
the face of such a Nation; for a forced Uniformity in mat-  
ters of Gods worship, and the *bieling Ministers*, are not of God,  
but of the devil, nor of Christ, but Antichrist; and such a  
Ministry I do affirm, and shall maintain, was the cause of Thy  
Fathers fall; for the *bieling Ministry* at that time had their  
hearts full of war, and were divided, and so ministered  
death unto the people on both sides. And if thou, O King,  
shalt suffer Religion to be established by a Law, and shall force  
people therunto, it will be Thy utter ruin, and thou wilt  
surely miscarry in Government, as any that hath gone  
before thee.

And this I declare to thee in tender love and pity towards  
thee, and likewise exhort thee in the fear & dread of the Lord  
God that thou swear not at all; for if thou dost, thou breakest  
the Command of Christ Jesus the Light of the World, who is  
the wisdom of God ( *By whom Princes rule, and the Kings of the  
earth decree Justice* ) who said, *Swear not at all*. Consider O King,  
what advantage is swearing to the Just man? Will he be the  
more Just for swearing? Or, is the command of Christ of none  
effect? Nay, O King, the Just man need not swear, thereby  
to add to his integrity; nor doth the Unjust man any waies  
obscure or destroy the deceit or hypocrisie of his wicked heart,  
where-

whereby he may become more *Just* by swearing. Therefore O King, if thou canst not do Justice and Right for the People over whom God hath made thee chief Ruler and Magistrate without swearing, thou wilt never be able to do it by Swearing: Nay, O King, but on the contrary, for thee to swear that thou wilt maintain such Religion, or do such and such Justice for the people, puts thee into an absolute incapability to do Justice, forasmuch as that thou refusest that wisdom by which Kings decree Justice, as aforesaid, that is, Christ Jesus the Wisdom of God, who said, *Swear not at all*, and so said his Apostle James. And under the Old Covenant, *An Oath was an end to all strife*; but Christ the Oath of God, and New-Covenant, said, *Swear not at all*; and Christ the New-Covenant is the Prophet that Moses prophesied of, and said, *whoever would not hear him, should be cut off from among the people*.

Therefore O King and Council, *swear not at all*; neither establish Religion by a Law, to force an Uniformity thereunto, nor maintain a *Hireling Ministry*; for such a thing was the overthrow, not only of thy Father, but of all that have followed after, till thy Self by the mighty hand of God wert set in the place where now thou art. The Parliaments, Priests, and *Archie* were all Swearers, and high pretenders to Religion in the form, but nothing in the power, but persecuted all the upright in heart, who were in the power, but out of their Form; So I say, these Governours who have mismanaged in Government did busie themselves very much in matters of God, touching the *Consciences* of other men, whereof they had nothing to do; but in the mean time neglected the witness of God in their own particulars, and so were mindlesse and careless of their duties, as civil Magistrates, professing themselves wise, and exalting themselves into the Temple of God, wherein they had not to do, save in their own particulars: They became fools even in the management of their Civil affairs, and so laid a sandy foundation, and like foolish builders continued building their own, till such time their building did fall, and great was the fall thereof. And all this did proceed from the *Hireling Ministry*, which hath in all ages brought forth the same fruits, being still leaning upon, and trusting with the great men of the Earth, and Kings, and Councils, and Parliaments, and all men in Authority to establish Religion, and to settle their government, and

and men as the Prophet saith of them, *He that will not give  
to their words, they presently make war against him; and this hath  
been the state and condition of this Nation and others.* 1370

And therefore, O King, and Council, be wise, and learn  
by other mens harms, who not contenting themselves in  
their places, to do the work God set them about, but leaving  
their own work undone, did intermeddle and bulie themselves  
about Gods work, and the Conscience of men (of which Christ  
alone is Lord) and for this hath the Lord dashed them to pie-  
ces one after another since Thy Fathers dayes. First the Par-  
liament, then Protector, so called, and Protector again; then Par-  
liament, then Army and Committee of Safety, so called, then Par-  
liament again, against all which the Lord hath appeared in  
much severity, and hath removed all out of his way, and hath  
brought Thee and Thy party into their place and Author-  
rity to try you: Take heed, I say, therefore, O King, and  
Council of running against this rock, for if you do, you will  
assuredly be dash'd to pieces, as they already are; for false  
worship and false Ministers must down, and all that take part  
with them, and till that time there will never be peace on Earth;  
for tis the false Ministry that divides the people, and causes  
them to run into factions and divisions, and that sets people  
at variance one with another.

The false Ministry O King, thats the evil tree which brings  
forth bad fruit: And indeed they can do no otherwayes, for  
they are not of God, but of the evil one. Its clearly so, O King,  
for the tree was to be known by his fruit, and he is now grown  
so big, and his fruit so numerous, that one may run and read of  
what sort the tree is; and they that see it not to be the evil  
tree, are very near the pit of everlasting destruction.

Thou wast a child O King in thy Fathers dayes, and knew  
not to what perfection this evil tree was then grown; but with-  
draw thy self a little into thy private chamber, & there inquire  
of the Ancients of dayes, and ask counsel at the Oracle of God,  
the Light in thine own conscience, and therewith compare the  
Doctrine of Christ, who is the Word of God, and is very near  
thee, even in thy heart & in thy mouth; and thou wilt then see,  
hear, and understand what Christ & his Apostles saith, and the  
Prophets before them, concerning the false Prophets, and the  
false Ministers.

THE END.

C. C.